M C.

AN

ACCOUNT

Of a moſt Strange and Barbarous Action

How a Priſoners Wife of *Ludgate* threw herſelf from the Leads into *Black-Fryers*, on Sunday the 22th of this Inſtant *March*, between Twelve and One in the Afternoon.

HOW ſad and diſmal a thing is it to conſider eſpecially when we ſeriouſly reflect on the various and moſt inhumane Cruelties and Barbarities that are ſo frequently acted and committed among us, but I am ſure there can be none more ſtrange, or indeed unaccountable than this I am now about to give you a Relation of, being it was committed againſt all Laws, even that of Nature, for ſelf preſervation is implanted in our very Beings, but how frail and weak we are when left to our ſelves, and how cunning and ſubtile an Enemy we have to deal with, that continually encounters us, and maketh the ſtrongeſt Aſſaults upon our weakeſt Guards, inſinuating into our moſt private concerns and conditions, and taking all advantages to work our Ruin, there being none more prejudicial or deſtructive than bringing any to deſpair, as this moſt ſad and lamentable inſtance here plainly demonſtrates.

For, on *Sunday* the 22*d* of this Inſtant *March*, between Eleven and Twelve a Clock, one *Smith* (the Wife of *Michael Smith* Sawyer, who lived in *Holy-day-yard* in *Creed-lane*) went as her accoſtomed uſe was to Viſit her Husband, who has been a Priſoner in *Ludgate* for the ſpace of Fifteen

or

or Sixteen Weeks, which long and tedious Imprisonment had reduced them to a very poor and low condition, as having been forced to sell even their very Houshold goods for a present maintenance, and that being almost expended, utterly despairing of his inlargement, asked him after they had dined to go upon the Leads of the said Prison, having been there some time discoursing together, he went down to the Celler to fetch some drink, and leaving her there walking alone, she about Twelve a Clock (by the Instigation of the Devil) took that opportunity to throw her self over the Battlement of the Leads into *Black-Fryers*, which is at least Four Stories high, so that she was bruised to peices, and was carried to a House adjacent till the Crowners Inquest sat upon her.

Thus you see how the Devil tempts us to Sin, and attaques us when least suspected, therefore may this Circumstance affright us by this sad Example from the Commission of the horrid Sin of Self-Murther.

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